

New Scholarship Will Honor Eva Wickwire



By **Don Stacom**

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BRISTOL — Two months after the unexpected death of long-time Bristol Hospital employee Eva Wickwire, her colleagues and friends have established a scholarship in her memory.

Wickwire, 53, started as a volunteer at Hartford Hospital in her youth, and worked her way up to become assistant vice president of Bristol Hospital before taking a job with the American Cross in February.

Friends recently created the Eva Wickwire Volunteer Scholarship Fund through the Main Street Community Foundation, and plan to choose their first winner next year.

The scholarship competition is open to college students or graduating high school seniors from Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott who plan careers in health care. They also must show a strong record of volunteer service in health care, and applicants who've volunteered at Bristol Hospital will get preference.

"This scholarship is a beautiful way to sustain Eva's legacy in our community. She was an incredibly warm, kind and engaging member of the Bristol Hospital family," hospital President Kurt Barwis said in a statement.

"Eva Wickwire was a truly genuine person who touched many lives and was an integral part of the Bristol community," the Main Street Community Foundation said in a notice announcing the scholarship.

Wickwire served as chief development officer at Bristol Hospital for years, and was the public spokesperson throughout the long, high-profile hospitalization of then-Mayor Art Ward in 2010. Ward had collapsed and nearly died after choking on dinner. He was released 16 days later and eventually returned to work full-time.

Wickwire, a Simsbury resident, helped raise funds for a series of projects at the hospital, and was a key part of opening its Beekley Center for Breast Health & Wellness. Hospital staffers were stunned when she died suddenly in April, only months after taking an executive position with the **American Red Cross**.

"Eva was a great friend and true professional who cared about people and always did the right thing to make a difference. She is missed," said John Leone, hospital board chairman, said in a statement.

Scholarship applications will be available in January at <http://www.mainstreetfoundation.org>. Anyone wishing to donate to the fund may contact the Main Street Foundation or send a check to Main Street Community Foundation, P.O. Box 2702, Bristol, CT 06010.